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August 20, 1997

Office of the Secretary  
CC Docket No. 96-45  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

This letter is in reference to Nominations for Membership on the Universal Service Administrator Advisory Committee. I am nominating Dr. Steven I. Gordon as a member of the Universal Service Administrator Advisory Committee.

Dr. Steven I. Gordon is currently the Director and founder of the Greater Columbus Free-Net located at the Ohio Supercomputer Center, 1224 Kinnear Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43212. His phone number is 614-292-4132 and fax number is 614-292-7168. He can also be reached at sgordon@osc.edu.

Dr. Gordon has been instrumental in the start-up of several additional community computing systems in Ohio. These systems provide Internet services to the public at large at little or no cost in order to promote the dissemination of information through the electronic medium. In 1996, he received the Ameritech prize for his contributions to the field of telecommunications. He is a wide range of experience in technology and telecommunications as the Associate Director for Instructional Computing at The Ohio State University, as the coordinator of the Internet 2 project for Ohio, and as a researcher in the area of regional planning and community development through his work as a Professor of City and Regional Planning at The Ohio State University. He also currently serve as the Chairperson of the Columbus Area Cable Television Advisory Commission, advising the Columbus Mayor and City Council on matters relating to cable television services and is the Chairperson of an Ad-Hoc Committee of Community Computing in the Columbus area. Dr. Gordon will serve to bring the views of the community computing movement to the committee.

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Unfortunately, there is currently no one group which represents these systems. However, together, they represent a user base that has been estimated to be third largest in the US of any Internet Service Provider.

Dr. Gordon has received several grants relating to the promotion of Internet access for the public at large. These include an NTIA grant to the Franklin County Department of Human Services for which the Greater Columbus Free-Net developed an employment referral system allowing low-income individuals to register for employment assistance on-line at a number of neighborhood centers. Dr. Gordon also administered a project sponsored by the Ohio Department of Development to extend community information systems into additional, rural areas not served by any community systems. Two new systems were started as a result. In addition, contacts were made with a number of other rural communities in Ohio seeking a community information system but unable to go forward for lack of funds. Thus, Dr. Gordon has a wide range of experience working with both lower income and rural areas seeking access to Internet resources through community information systems.

Community information systems such as the Greater Columbus Free-Net are an overlooked opportunity to provide Internet services that will meet the intent of the *Universal Service Order* and also meet a wider range of public interests in providing that access. Dr. Gordon is in a unique position to represent the interests of existing and potential new community information systems that could participate in implementation of this new program.

The Ohio Supercomputer Center will support Dr. Gordon's travel to meetings. Dr. Gordon certifies that he shall actively participate in good faith in the objectives of the Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Charlie F. Bender  
Director

c: Dr. Steven I. Gordon  
Sheryl Todd, Federal Communications Commission  
International Transcription Service